

IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicant, pursuant to revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, submits the following amendments to the claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for providing a medical diagnosis to a user, comprising:

(a) configuring, in one or a plurality of electronic databases stored in a storage device of a computer, a set of alternative medical diagnoses each indicating a medical or disease condition, a query set comprising at least one query, and a set of primary bias values, wherein the set of primary bias values comprises, with respect to each query, a corresponding set of alternative medical diagnosis-specific primary bias values each directly associating the particular query with each respective alternative diagnosis, and each bias value directly reflecting at least one human expert's prior conception of the degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative medical diagnosis relative to others;

(b) inputting a response to the at least one query into the computer to provide for at least one respective response value;

(c) ranking, using a software program stored on the storage device that is operative with a processor of the computer to receive and process the response, ~~and the alternative~~ medical diagnoses according to relative likelihood, based at least in part on the product of the at least one response values and the respective medical diagnosis-specific set of primary bias values to provide a medical diagnosis comprising a ranked set of alternative medical diagnoses; and

(d) providing the medical diagnosis, or a portion thereof, to ~~[[a]]~~ the user.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein ranking the set of alternative medical diagnoses further comprises querying the one or more electronic databases to generate at least one secondary bias value that is based on the corresponding primary bias value and the response to the query, wherein each secondary bias value is associated with a particular alternative medical diagnosis of the set of alternative medical diagnoses ~~alternatives~~, and reflects the at least one expert's expert prior conception of the degree of predictive value of the query and response for

the particular alternative medical diagnosis relative to others, and wherein ranking is based, at least in part, on the secondary bias values, or at least in part on a combination of the primary and secondary bias values.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein generating the secondary bias values involves increasing, decreasing or conserving the corresponding primary bias values based on the response to the query.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the query set comprises a plurality of queries, and wherein ranking the alternative medical diagnoses involves summing and averaging of at least one of primary and secondary bias values.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein generating secondary bias values, and ranking the alternative medical diagnoses is achieved, at least in part, by using algorithm 42.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A computer apparatus for providing a medical diagnosis to a user ranking a set of alternatives according to likelihood, comprising:

(a) a computer having a processor and at least one storage device connected thereto;

(b) a database of alternatives, comprising a stored set of alternative medical diagnoses alternatives;

(c) a database of queries, comprising a stored set of at least one query;

(d) a primary bias value database, comprising a stored set of primary bias values, wherein each primary bias value directly associates a particular query with a particular alternative medical diagnosis of the set of alternative medical diagnoses alternatives, and reflects at least one human expert's prior conception of the degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative medical diagnosis relative to others; and

(e) a stored software program operative with the processor to receive and process a user's response to the query, to provide for a response value to the at least one query, and to rank the alternative medical diagnoses alternatives according to relative likelihood based, at least in part, on

the product of the at least one response values and the respective medical diagnosis-specific set of primary bias values.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a user database, comprising user information, wherein the program is operative with the processor to store, access and update user information when new user information is received.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the program is further operative with the processor to track the user information.

15. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method, over a wide-area network, for providing a medical diagnosis to a user ~~a ranked set of alternative diagnoses according to likelihood~~, comprising:

(a) configuring, in one or a plurality of electronic databases of a server, a set of alternative *medical* diagnoses, a query set comprising at least one query, and a set of primary bias values, wherein the set of primary bias values comprises, with respect to each query, a corresponding set of alternative medical diagnosis-specific primary bias values each directly associating the particular query with each respective alternative medical diagnosis, and each primary bias value directly reflecting at least one human expert's prior conception of the degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative medical diagnosis relative to others;

(b) inputting a user's response to the at least one query into a computer through a user subsystem to provide for at least one respective response value;

(c) transmitting the user's at least one response to the server over the wide-area network;

(d) ranking, using a software program stored on the storage device that is operative with a processor of the computer to receive and process the response, ~~and the alternative~~ medical diagnoses according to relative likelihood, based at least in part on the product of the at least one response values and the respective medical diagnosis-specific set of primary bias values to provide medical diagnosis comprising a ranked set of alternative medical diagnoses; and

(e) transmitting the ranked set of alternative medical diagnoses to the user subsystem over the wide-area network, whereby the set of alternative diagnoses is ranked according to likelihood to provide a ranked set of alternative diagnoses.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein ranking the alternative medical diagnoses further comprises querying the one or more electronic databases of the server to generate at least one secondary bias value that is based on the corresponding primary bias value and the response to the query, wherein each secondary bias value is associated with a particular alternative medical diagnoses of the set of alternative medical diagnoses, and reflects the expert prior conception of the degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative medical diagnoses relative to others, and wherein ranking is based, at least in part, on the secondary bias values, or at least in part on a combination of the primary and secondary bias values.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein generating the secondary bias values involves increasing, decreasing or conserving the corresponding primary bias values based on the response to the query.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the query set comprises a plurality of queries, and wherein ranking the alternative medical diagnoses involves summing and averaging of at least one of primary and secondary bias values.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein generating secondary bias values, and ranking the alternative medical diagnoses is achieved, at least in part, by using algorithm 42.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) A computer network apparatus for providing a medical diagnosis to a user ranking a set of alternatives according to likelihood, comprising:

- (a) a server having a processor and at least one storage device connected to the processor;
- (b) a database of alternatives, comprising a stored set of alternative medical diagnoses;
- (c) a database of queries, comprising a stored set of at least one query;

(d) a primary bias value database, comprising a stored set of primary bias values, wherein the set of primary bias values comprises, with respect to each query, a corresponding set of alternative medical diagnosis-specific primary bias values each directly associating the particular query with each respective alternative medical diagnosis of the set of alternative medical diagnoses, and each bias value directly reflecting at least one human expert's prior conception of the degree of predictive value of the query for the particular alternative medical diagnosis relative to others; and

(e) a stored software program operative with the processor to receive and process, from a user subsystem, a user's response to the query, to provide for a response value to the at least one query, and to rank the alternative medical diagnoses according to relative likelihood based, at least in part, on the product of the at least one response values and the respective medical diagnosis-specific set of primary bias values, for transmission to the user subsystem.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a user database, comprising user information, wherein the program is operative with the processor to store, access and update user information when new user information is received.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the program is further operative with the processor to track the user information.

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein ranking the set of alternative medical diagnoses further-comprises querying at least one database to generate at least one secondary bias value that is based on the corresponding primary bias value and the response to the query, wherein each secondary bias value is associated with a particular alternative medical diagnosis of the set of alternative medical diagnoses, and reflects the expert prior conception of the degree of predictive value of the query and response for the particular alternative medical diagnosis relative to others, and wherein ranking is based, at least in part, on the secondary bias values, or at least in part on a combination of the primary and secondary bias values.

25. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein ranking the set of alternative medical diagnoses further-comprises querying at least one database to generate at least one secondary bias value that is based on the corresponding primary bias value and the response to

the query, wherein each secondary bias value is associated with a particular alternative medical diagnosis of the set of alternative medical diagnoses, and reflects the expert prior conception of the degree of predictive value of the query and response for the particular alternative medical diagnosis relative to others, and wherein ranking is based, at least in part, on the secondary bias values, or at least in part on a combination of the primary and secondary bias values.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein a human expert-derived absolute dependency is defined between at least one query and a particular medical diagnosis, the method further comprising for the particular medical diagnosis, shifting the secondary bias value to reflect the absolute dependency.

28. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein a human expert-derived absolute dependency is defined between at least one query and a particular medical diagnosis, the method further comprising for the particular medical diagnosis, shifting the secondary bias value to reflect the absolute dependency.